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REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed 9/1/2006, Claim 8 was canceled. Claims 14-17 and 19-20 were rejected as being anticipated by Lowerwald. Claims 9-12 were rejected as being obvious over Lowerwald. Claims 13 and 18 were rejected as being obvious over Lowerwald in view of Timp.

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 were allowed. In that this allowance was grounded upon the Examiner's conclusion that the prior art "lacks the presence of 'a mandrel having a substantially flat faced head defined by a threaded bore formed therein,'" and that there is no prior art of record that would motivate one having ordinary skill in the art to so modify the teachings of Lowerwald so as to include such limitation.

Herein, Applicant has taken those limitations relied upon by the Examiner in allowing claims 1-4 and 6-8 and has amended them into independent claims 9 and 14 in order to likewise bring these claims to allowance. Claim 1, which is allowed, is amended herein simply to correct a grammatical error accidentally introduced during prosecution of this application.

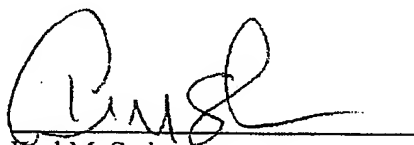
As such, Applicant respectfully asserts that the grounds for rejection of the non-allowed claims have been overcome, and that all remaining claims should now be allowed. If any impediment to the allowance of the claims remains after consideration of this request for reconsideration, and such impediment could be alleviated during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be reconsidered, the claims be allowed, and the case passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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